## REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 25, 2005. Newly added Claims 14-19 are presented for examination, of which Claims 14, 18 and 19 are in independent form. Claims 1-13 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer of subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants note that the Examiner considered the art cited in the Information Disclosure Statement of January 10, 2002. The Office Action does not, however, acknowledge the Information Disclosure Statement dated March 21, 2002 (copy attached, along with a copy of the return postcard with the Patent and Trademark Office Mail Room stamp confirming receipt), and Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner return an initialed copy of the form PTO-1449 filed with that paper, as well.

Also, Applicants understand from the priority acknowledgment on the summary page of the Office Action that the certified copy of the priority document is in the Patent and Trademark Office's file of this applicaiotn. If that is not the case, the Examiner is respectfully requetsested so to indicate in the body of his next action.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,929,906 (Arai et al.). In addition, Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious from that patent, and Claims 11-13, as being obvious from *Arai* in view of U.S. Patent 5,731,988 (Zandi et al.),

The cancellation of Claims 1-13 renders the rejections of those claims moot. The claims now presented for examiantion are beleived clearly to be allwoable over the art of record, for at least the following reasons.

Independent Claim 14 is directed to a method of performing color processing to output color data to an image processing component, in which spectral data which indicates an input color is acquired, and a color data format of color data is determined in accordance with information of the image processing component, to transmit the color data to the image processing component. The color data having the determined color data format is generated from the acquired spectral data, and the generated color data is outputted to the image processing component. According to Claim 14, the color data format includes a spectral data format, and a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and the plurality of color component data are generated in the generating step from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format in the determining step..

Claim 14 is supported by the second embodiment and Fig. 4, at the least.[1]

Among other notable features of the mehtod of Claim 14, therefore, are generating color data of a color data format which is usable in an image processing component, and outputting the color data to the image processing component. That is, in the method of Claim 14, (i) spectral data is acquired, (ii) the color data format is determined in accordance with information of the image processing component, (iii) the color data of the determined color data format is generated from the acquiring spectral data, and (iv) the generated color data is outputted to the image processing component. In addition, (a) the color data format includes a spectral data format, and (b) a color component format which indicates a color using a plurality of color component data, and

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[1] It is to be understood, of course, that the claim scope is not limited by the details of any particular embodiment that may be referred to.

the plurality of color component data are generated from the spectral data when the color component format is determined as the color data format. Especially, the determination of the color data format is believed not to be taught or suggested by anything in the prior art. By virtue of this feature of the method of Claim 14, the color data having the color data format suited to the image processing component can be outputted.

*Arai* relates to a method of using a neural network to determine the proper signals to be supplied to an output unit, working from given color separation data, to produce the desired output, taking into consideration the illuminant. Even if *Arai* teaches conversion from color spectral data to a spectral distribution, and conversion from the spectral distribution to XYZ data, however, Applicants submit that nothing in *Arai* would teach or suggest controlling a color data format of color data to be transmitted to an image processing component, as in the method of Claim 14.

*Zandi* relates to reversible color correction, in which operations are performed on vector input data such that the transform is reversible in integer arithmetic with a predictable precision; as Applicants understand it, that patent was cited simply as teaching a computer program product. Applicants submit that nothing in that patent would teach or suggest such control of the color data format of color data to be transmitted to an image processing component. Even assuming that *Arai* and *Zandt* can properly be combined, therefore, the result of such combination would not meet the terms of Claim 14, and that claim is believed to be clearly allowable over those two patents.

Independent Claims 18 and 19 are computer program product and apparatus claims, respectively, corresponding to method Claim 14, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 14.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 14, and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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